

## **Dangerous Dogs Questions and Answers**

### **1. Q: What exactly is a "Pit Bull Dog?"**

**A:** According to city ordinances, a pit bull dog is: a Staffordshire Bull Terrier; American Staffordshire Terrier; American Pit Bull Terrier; any other breed commonly known as Pit Bull, Pit Bull Dog, or Pit Bull Terrier; or any dogs (including mix breed) which have the appearance or characteristics of being predominantly of the above breeds.

### **2. Q: I have a Pit Bull and want it to be "grandfathered" in. How can I find out if it is properly licensed now?**

**A:** If you have any questions whether your pit bull is currently licensed and whether we have your correct address, you should contact the Animal Shelter before August 1<sup>st</sup> and ask them to check and update your record. That way if your dog is not currently licensed, you can get it licensed and be eligible for a Pit Bull Dog Special Permit in August.

### **3. Q: When can I call or stop by the Animal Shelter?**

**A:** The Shelter is located at 329 North Second. Their regular hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturday, the Shelter is open from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The phone number (785) 826-6535.

### **4. Q: Where can I pick up a copy of the actual city ordinance governing Pit Bull Dogs?**

**A:** Along with an information packet, ordinance copies are available to pick up at the Animal Shelter (329 North Second) or the City Clerk's Office (Room 206, 300 West Ash, City-County Building). The ordinance is also posted on the City of Salina website: <http://www.salina-ks.gov/PitOrd.pdf>

### **5. Q: I want to get a Pit Bull Dog Special Permit. What do I need to do?**

**A:** Application forms are included with the Information Packet or available at the Animal Shelter or City Clerk's Office. Applications will be accepted until Tuesday, August 31, 2004.

A non-refundable initial application and permit fee of \$50.00 must be submitted with the fully completed application, along with a photo of the dog.

In addition to the regular Animal Shelter hours, special evening and Saturday hours will be kept during August for owners who want to submit their application for a Pit Bull Dog Special Permit and get answers to questions.

Those dates are: (Thursdays) August 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> until 7:00 p.m.; and (Saturday), August 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> until 2:00 p.m.

**6. Q: I own more than one Pit Bull. Can I get more than one special permit?**

**A:** Yes. If each Pit Bull Dog is properly licensed as of August 1, 2004. Each dog requires a separate permit application and separate \$50.00 permit fee. With more than one Pit Bull Dog on the premises, special inspections will be required and added pen/kennel conditions may apply.

**7. Q: What are the standards for the pens and kennels required by September 1<sup>st</sup> for Pit Bulls with a special permit?**

**A:** Pens or Kennels must:

- Be located in the rear yard of the home, no closer than 5 feet from the property line or 10 feet from an alley, and far enough away from someone else's home so that a public nuisance isn't caused.
- The pen/kennel shall be constructed of at least 12.5-gauge chain link fencing, with secure sides and a secure horizontal top of comparable material covering the pen. The preferred floor is concrete, with the bottom edge of the fencing securely attached to the concrete. If the pen has no floor, the side fencing must extend at least 12 inches below the grade, and/or other approved provisions must be made to assure the dog cannot dig out of the pen.
- The gate must be of the same material as the fence, fit closely and must be securely locked at all times when the dog is inside.
- The standard size of a pen or kennel is approximately 50 square feet per dog. However, the pen must be of a size appropriate to the dog or dogs, and shall provide adequate ventilation, shade and protection from the elements.
- Some variation may be allowed on size and exact construction materials, but any substitution must meet security standards to assure the dog cannot escape the pen.

**8. Q: Where can I get the required insurance?**

**A:** If you are a homeowner, you no doubt already have homeowners insurance. Please check with your insurance agent and ask them whether you have dog bite liability coverage for your pit bull dog. If you are a renter with standard renter's insurance, you should do the same. If you are a renter without a current renter's insurance policy, you should contact local agents and check on availability. Some insurance companies won't issue a homeowners or renters policy if you own a pit bull; others will. State Farm and Farmers Insurance Group are two companies which do not exclude specific breeds. If you meet their other requirements for insurance, you should be able to get renters insurance, with liability coverage

from them. There may also be other companies available. You should check around.

**9. Q: What do I need to do about the required microchipping?**

**A:** Identification microchipping is required for each pit bull dog. If you already have the dog microchipped, you can provide verification with your permit application. If not, you can either contact your own veterinarian for it, or contact the Salina Animal Shelter to make special appointment arrangements.

**10. Q: What happens if someone doesn't comply with the city ordinances or their permit conditions?**

**A:** Full compliance is required in order to be able to keep a "grandfathered" pit bull dog in Salina. Failure to comply will result in impounding of the dog, revocation of any permits, and charges in Salina Municipal Court. Court penalties upon conviction can be up to \$2,500 or 1 year in jail, or both.